



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 539

February Session, 2000

An Act Concerning Linguistic Access In Acute Care Hospitals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 (NEW) Each acute care hospital in this state shall:
- 2 (1) Develop and annually review a policy on the provision of
- 3 interpreter services to non-English-speaking patients;
- 4 (2) Ensure, to the extent possible, the availability of interpreter
- 5 services to patients whose primary language is spoken by a group
- 6 comprising not less than five per cent of the population residing in the
- 7 geographic area served by the hospital;
- 8 (3) Prepare and maintain a list of qualified interpreters;
- 9 (4) Notify hospital staff of the requirement to provide interpreters to
- 10 non-English-speaking patients;
- 11 (5) Post multilingual notices of the availability of interpreters to
- 12 non-English-speaking patients;
- 13 (6) Review standardized forms to determine the need for translation
- 14 for use by non-English-speaking patients;
- 15 (7) Consider providing hospital staff with picture and phrase sheets
- 16 for communication with non-English-speaking patients; and

- 17 (8) Establish liaisons to non-English-speaking communities in the
18 geographic area served by the hospital.

PH Committee Vote: Yea 25 Nay 0 JFS